

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 3, March 2010

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MEET BARACK OBAMA



Americans and the world alike are watching the 44th president closely, eager to see how this leader from an extraordinary background will shape the United States' policies, goals and relationships with the international community. For more information,

please visit <http://www.america.gov/obama.html>

A New Beginning: Engaging with Muslims Worldwide

President Obama delivered a speech from Cairo University on June 4 outlining his personal commitment to engagement with the Muslim world, based upon mutual interests and mutual respect, and discussed how the United States and Muslim communities around the world can bridge some of the differences that have divided them. His commitment to engage the Muslim world began with his inaugural address. Full text in Indonesian version is accessible at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/aneubeginning/SPEECH_as_delivered-Indonesian.pdf

Obama Policies

The President arrived facing an unprecedented array of challenges, and is meeting them with a bold, comprehensive plan. He passed the most ambitious recovery package in history to address the economic crisis. He is reimagining government to be more open, transparent, and accountable. And he is restoring America's alliances abroad, as well as American values at home.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues>

Blog: Obama Today

Learn about and share your thoughts on President Obama's policies and initiatives. <http://blogs.america.gov/obama/>

Barack Obama, Nobel Peace Laureate

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. Find more at: <http://www.america.gov/nobelpeace.html>

Barack Obama: 44th President of the United States

This publication tells the story of Obama's life and how he portrays his vision for the future. It introduces readers to the Obama family and to Vice President, Joseph Biden. <http://www.america.gov/publications/books/obama.html>

Obama in His Own Words

These pages share President Obama's words with our global readership. This book includes the complete text of the 44th President's Inaugural Address. Also featured are extended excerpts from eight other significant campaign and pre-presidential speeches. http://www.america.gov/publications/books/obama_speech.html

Barack Obama: Photo Gallery

Pictures tell the story of Barack Obama's path from childhood in Hawaii through his quick rise in state and national politics to the White House.

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/4110/obama/>



Michelle Obama: A Woman of Influence

First Lady Michelle Obama serves as a role model for women who strive to balance their professional careers and their roles as mothers and wives. For more information, please visit http://www.america.gov/michelle_obama.html

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

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Women of Courage 2010

Women leaders around the world work tirelessly to champion human rights and defend freedom. Here are the stories of a few such women — the 2010 International Women of Courage award winners. Learn more at <http://www.america.gov/woc2010.html>

You also can find articles on:

U.S. Department of State Office of Global Women's Issues
<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/>

World Reflects on Women's Progress, Remaining Obstacles
<http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2010/February/20100226151511ajesroM0.3216059.html>

The Rights of Women and Girls
<http://www.america.gov/st/democracy-english/2008/May/20080609220902eaifas0.754162.html>

E-journal on Women of Influence
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/women-of-influence.html>

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Corbett, Steve; Davidson, Michael J. **THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS** (Parameters, Vol. 34, No. 4, Winter 2009-10, pp. 58-72)

The authors, both retired military officers, are concerned by the public endorsement of presidential candidates by retired general officers. They worry that it reflects "a disturbing trend toward the politicization of the American military" as well as a move away from the traditional nonpartisan professional military ethic. They believe that this practice should be discouraged because of its potential damage to the U.S. armed forces, noting that "political neutrality is essential to the military's ability to survive in its present form." The authors point out several potential problems to political endorsements by military retirees: civilian political leaders may not trust senior military advisers whom they see as potential political opponents; political endorsements by retirees may legitimize the spread of partisan political politics within the active-duty force; and such activities may undermine the confidence of the American public in the military's political neutrality.

2. Gill, Kirrin; Warner, Ann et al. **FROM BENEFICIARIES TO CHANGE AGENTS: THE RISE OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** (SAIS Review, vol. 29, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2009, pp. 23-38)

The authors assert that women are unquestionably the largest new international player on the world stage today, and are shaping local, national, and global change in a variety of innovative ways. In recent years, most notably, women have changed from the passive beneficiaries of international development efforts to the powerful leaders that help bring about such change. The authors state that the implications for practitioners of development are clear: focused research and bold policies are needed to better explore the contours of this change, and to maximize the rich leadership potential offered by women in today's world.

3. Roman, Joe; Ehrlich, Paul et al. **FACING EXTINCTION: 9 STEPS TO SAVE BIODIVERSITY** (Solutions, No. 1, January-February 2010)

Four distinguished authors outline conservationists' responsibility to defend and restore ecosystems in a world where biodiversity is increasingly compromised by climate change and human activity. They propose nine ways to do this that involve local communities, individual and national economics, biodiversity endowments, and education to increase "bioliteracy." With so many species extinct or on the brink of extinction, the goal is to reach "zero extinction" by returning to good stewardship. Currently available online at http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/feature_article/2009-02-24-facing-extinction-nine-steps-save-biodiversity

ECONOMIC SECURITY

4. Peck, Don **HOW A NEW JOBLESS ERA WILL TRANSFORM AMERICA** (Atlantic Monthly, March 2010)

The author notes that the official unemployment figures in the U.S. understate the magnitude of the jobs crisis; the percentage of unemployed and underemployed have approached the highest figure since the 1930s. Despite official pronouncements that the recession is over, a prolonged era of high joblessness is just beginning. Peck writes that it will have a profound effect on the prospects, character and behavior patterns of a generation of young people who

are just now trying to enter the workforce. For the first time in U.S. history, the majority of the jobs in the country will be held by women, as the shrinking of the traditional manufacturing industries and trades falls disproportionately on men. Peck fears that the longer the jobless period lasts, the greater the negative effect it will have on the stability of households and communities around the country. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/201003/jobless-america-future>

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

5. Ferguson, Charles **THE LONG ROAD TO ZERO** (Foreign Affairs, vol. 89, no. 1, January/February 2010, pp. 86-94)

The author notes that a clear bipartisan consensus has emerged in the Washington on the subject of nuclear security. At the same time, however, he poses an important question: In a world where the strongest conventional military power cannot envision giving up its nuclear weapons before all other nations have abandoned theirs, how will humanity ever rid itself of nuclear weapons? Ferguson writes of the importance of finding a way to obviate the prestige factor associated with possessing nuclear arms.

6. Baker, Peter **OBAMA'S WAR OVER TERROR** (New York Times Magazine, January 17, 2010, pp. 30-39, 46-47)

The author takes an inside look at the struggle to remake anti-terrorism policy. When President Obama was inaugurated in January 2009, he inherited two struggles: One with al-Qaeda and its ideological allies, and another that divided his own country over what it means to be an American. A series of events involving terrorist situations, most recently the Christmas Day incident in Detroit, has forced the president

to question each decision he has had to make, especially after criticism that his advisers, led by his top counterterrorism official John Brennan, who set up the National Counterterrorism Center under former President George W. Bush, were not giving him the best advice. Still, during his first year, the president has continued to adopt the bulk of the counterterrorism strategy he inherited from his predecessor.

7. Oglesby, Donna Marie **STATECRAFT AT THE CROSSROADS: A NEW DIPLOMACY** (SAIS Review, vol. 29, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2009, pp. 93-106)

Oglesby notes that the severe global economic contraction that began in 2008 has accelerated the transition to a new age of international politics, one characterized by weak but reassertive states, rising powers, waning American primacy, shifting media dynamics, and aroused and empowered societies. This new age of political ferment requires a fundamental reassessment of the way the U.S. formulates and conducts its national security strategy. This article explores the connections between our foreign policy and politics across domestic and foreign boundaries on several key national security challenges.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

8. Kivisto, Peter **CITIZENSHIP TODAY: VICISSITUDES AND PROMISE** (Choice, vol. 47, no. 6, February 2010, pp. 1015-1023)

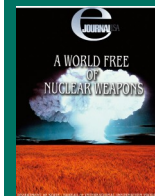
In this review essay, the author discusses the rapidly expanding body of literature on citizenship studies and divides it into four distinct categories: inclusion, withdrawal, erosion, and expansion. In the United States, government exists to serve its citizens. Americans expect their government to protect their basic constitutional rights, including freedom of speech and religion, the right to equal protection under the law, and the opportunity to organize and participate fully in the political, economic, and cultural life of society. U.S. citizens also recognize that they have a responsibility to their society if they are to enjoy the protection of their rights.

9. Smith, Steven; Mercer, Holly **IT'S THE CONTENT, STUPID** (American Libraries, vol. 41, no. 1-2, January/February 2010, pp. 48-51)

The authors believe that libraries and librarians have an important stake in the development of online scholarship. Many benefits will come from the growth of digital monographs and journals as well as the development of scholarly websites, online archives, blogs, wikis, and other outlets for research even farther afield from the traditional models. Digital scholarship may be non-linear, unstructured, or open-ended, and it is often software-intensive and multimedia; more remains to be done before libraries can preserve digital content with the same degree of confidence as print.

E-PUBLICATIONS

A World Free of Nuclear Weapons
February 2010



Since the first atomic bombs exploded in 1945, some have tried to rid

the world of nuclear weapons. President Obama has embraced this goal with new vigor. This issue of eJournal USA examines the challenges to achieving nuclear disarmament. It conveys the hopes of some thinkers, and explains the doubts of others. Available online at <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0210.html>

American Citizenship
January 2010

American Citizenship



In the United States, government serves the citizens. It protects their constitutional rights, including freedom of speech and religion, and the right to equal protection under the law. This book depicts American citizens exercising the many rights and privileges that empower them to participate fully in the nation's political, economic, and cultural life. Available online at <http://www.america.gov/publications/books-content/american-citizenship.html>

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New Publications

- () A World Free of Nuclear Weapons
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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2010

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation. Link: http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/014522.html



Presidential Proclamation - Women's History Month 2010
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-womens-history-month>